

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	25X1
TOPIC	Alt Loennewitz Airfield		25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT			
DATE OBTAINED		PREPARED	21 April 1953 25X1
REFERENCES			
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			
This is UNEVALUATED Information			
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1. The following air activity was observed at Alt Loennewitz airfield from 24 February through 20 March 1953: 25X1
24 February. There was light air activity in the afternoon. The closed ceiling was rather low, visibility about 1,000 meters.
27 February. From 8 to 10 a.m., individual take-offs were practiced. Up to 12 planes were observed aloft. Four planes were parked at the eastern end of the runway.
4 March. At 5 p.m., three jet fighters made local training flights.
20 March. From 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., jet fighters and ground attack planes practiced flying, including formation flying. The weather was fair.¹
2. 37-mm AA guns continued to be emplaced on the south side of the field. On 4 March, an AAA unit of 12 trucks some of them towing 76- or 85-mm guns proceeding to the airfield. Another AAA emplacement was being constructed at the eastern edge of the field south of the approach lane. Four AA guns were parked close to the fence.² 25X1
3. The former German Air Force settlement east of the road to Falkenberg was reoccupied by a Soviet Air Force unit. Some of the buildings of this settlement were reconditioned. On 20 March, bus occupied by about 50 air force officers and EM was seen proceeding to the settlement. Trucks observed 25X1
4. On 24 February, several boxcars arrived at the field. 25X1
5. Air activity observed at the field from 3 through 22 March included: 25X1
3 March. From 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Il-10s flew circles over the field in rainy weather. Six planes were seen aloft almost continuously.
4 March. Four MiG-15s made 45-minute flights above the clouds. 25X1
4 March. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., there was air activity by MiG-15s. Weather was rainy and stormy.
5 March. MiG-15s and Il-10s practiced flying. The latter planes, which were chiefly observed in the afternoon, mainly practiced formation flying. Formations of up to 8 and 12 planes were observed. From 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., an Il-10 which towed an air sleeve flew circles over the field. The towed sleeve target was fired at by three details of 10 to 15 men armed with machine guns and carbines. From 6 to 10:30 p.m. individual MiG-15s made 10-minute flights, while two searchlights were in operation. 25X1

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8 March. From 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., several MiG-15s practiced flying in groups of two. Some others were observed diving. The weather was fair.

9 March. There was no flying. The weather was fair. A total of 53 single-engine planes and 22 MiG-15s, of which 6 served as alert planes, were observed.

10 March. MiG-15s practiced individual and formation flying throughout the day. Once 12 MiG-15s were seen aloft at the same time. Some other MiG-15s practiced diving over the wooded area west of the western hangar.

11 March. From 11 a.m., when the weather began to clear up, until 2 p.m. ground attack planes flew circles over the field. From 1 to 4:30 p.m. MiG-15s

_____ were engaged in flying.

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12 March. From 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., MiG-15s practiced formation flying. From 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., several Po-2s and Yak-14s, which could well be recognized against the background of the light sky, flew circles over the field. The planes took off in rapid succession and kept the same distance while aloft.

14 March. At 9:30 a.m., 12 MiG-15s took off in groups of two at intervals of 20 seconds. They formed into a formation of 12 at a great altitude. Vapor trails were seen. About 10 a.m., firing was heard from the direction of Belgern. Formation flying by MiG-15s continued until 5:50 p.m. Some MiG-15s practiced diving. Six MiG-15s were parked as alert planes.

15 March. From 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. individual Il-10s made local training flights while other Il-10s flew in formations of two. Three Po-2s were observed aloft in the afternoon. _____ The weather was fair.

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16 March. At 8 a.m., eight MiG-15s took off in groups of two and headed for Belgern. Firing was heard in this direction. Another four MiG-15s took off in groups of two at 9:10 a.m. They also headed for Belgern. Several other such take-offs were observed until about 5 p.m. Diving was also practiced by MiG-15s. The weather was fair.

17 March. From 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., formation flying in groups of 2 and 5 was practiced. Once, a formation of 16 MiG-15s was seen. From 6:30 to 11:30 p.m., ground attack planes practiced night flying, while three searchlights were in operation.

18 March. After 9:30 a.m., 12 MiG-15s practiced formation flying, alternately in three flights staggered to the right and in line-abreast formation, with a distance of 400 meters between two planes. In this way formation flying was practiced until 4 p.m. _____ From

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7 to 10 p.m., four Po-2s made 30-minute flights.

19 March. From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., eight Il-10s made local training flights which extended landing gears. Six other Il-10s flew in groups of two. From 6 to 8 p.m., Po-2s and two Yak-14s practiced night flying.

20 March. At 7 a.m., 41 single-engine planes and 11 MiG-15s were observed at the field. All the hangars were closed. The alert flight at the field consisted of four MiG-15s.

21 March. In the morning, MiG-15s practiced air fighting, while four Po-2s were flying circles over the field.

22 March. In the morning, individual MiG-15s were flying at great altitudes as could be determined from vapor trails seen. Other MiG-15s practiced diving and curves. There was night flying by Po-2s from 6 to 10 p.m.¹

6. In March, six AA guns were observed at the emplacement on the south side of the installation. In early March, AAA positions south of the western end of the runway and east of Alt Loennwitz park were occupied by details of 10 to 15 men each who were armed with machine guns.² On 11 March, a night alert was held. Sentries were reinforced and the soldiers were restricted to quarters.

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7. [redacted] three officers from Alt Loennewitz airfield had attended Stalin's funeral in Moscow. 25X1
8. The four wooden masts of the radio installation each of Alt Loennewitz which had been reported already in December 1952, were set up in an irregular quadrangle around a wooden building, at a distance of 30 to 50 meters from this building.³ Sedan [redacted] were seen at the field. 25X1
9. On 5 and 6 March, there was flying at the field by jet fighters and ground attack planes. A total of about 48 ground attack planes, 24 jet fighters besides an undetermined number of biplanes and single-engine planes were observed.¹ 25X1
1. [redacted] Comment. A fighter regiment and a ground attack regiment are stationed at Alt Loennewitz airfield. The air activity observed indicates that both regiments are in a stage of advanced pilot training. Noteworthy is the increased amount of formation flying done by MiG-15 in large formations. The frequently observed changing of cruising formation into line-abreast and single-file formations with subsequent diving attacks indicates that the Soviets set great store by the elimination of ground targets by MiG-15s. [redacted] 25X1

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